



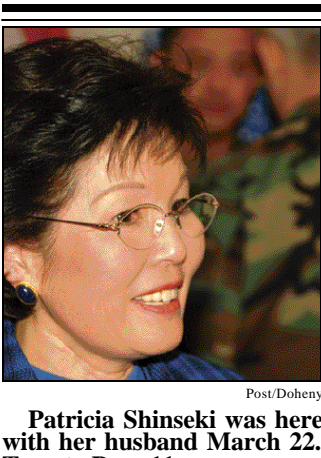
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<b>Weather Forecast</b>		<b>Today</b>	
			<b>High:63 Low:34</b>
<b>Saturday</b>		<b>Sunday</b>	
	<b>High:60 Low:33</b>		<b>High:63 Low:38</b>

FRIDAY

Fort Riley

Post



Patricia Shinseki was here with her husband March 22. Turn to Page 11.

March 29, 2002

Proudly serving America's Warfighting Center

Vol. 44, No. 7

# Fort Riley: America's Warfighting Center

## Army Chief of Staff Gen. Shinseki makes announcement at luncheon during visit

By **Christie Vanover**  
*Deputy MRO*

FORT RILEY, KAN.-The Chief of staff of the Army, Gen. Eric K. Shinseki, and Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley, announced March 22 that Fort Riley has been named an American warfighting center.

In comments at Kansas Congressman Jim Ryun's quarterly luncheon, Shinseki said, "Riley remains America's Warfighting Center ... I think it's a great logo for Fort Riley - America's Warfighting Center, home of the great 24th Infantry Division and those brigades of the 1st

Armored and 1st Infantry Divisions."

This summer, Fort Riley's role as a warfighting center will be intensified as it prepares the 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade of the North Carolina National Guard and thousands of reservists from 18 states for the National Training Center.

"We're bringing more than 8,000 reserve component personnel from all over the nation not just North Carolina," said Maj. Kevin West, training officer, 30th Enhanced Separate Brigade.

"Our intent this summer is to replicate the NTC rotation here at Fort Riley, so when they get out to the NTC in 2003, they'll know what to expect, and they will have a feeling like they have already

done that before," he said.

"This is an opportunity for Fort Riley to validate the warfighter center concept. We have the maneuver area, we have the support structure, we provide an OPFOR (opposing force) for the units, and we feel we can provide them with the best training experience possible," said West.

In addition to training Fort Riley's active components, Fort Riley is home of one of the Army's two integrated divisions responsible for training and preparing three National Guard Enhanced Separate Brigades. The installation also trains more than 32,000 additional Reserve and National Guard soldiers annually.

"Riley supports about 300 Reserve

Component units from the surrounding areas that come here and rely on (Maj.) General Metz's oversight and support to get through their training readiness," he said.

Metz, West and other Fort Riley officials laid out the installation's plans for its summer training to Shinseki during one of his many briefings about the Fort Riley plan to harmonize with Shinseki's vision of transformation.

"Today's visit by the chief was a super day. Any day you get the Chief of Staff to come visit your installation is a very important day, but it was a special day because we were able to articulate to him all the capabilities that make us a warfighting center," said Metz following

Shinseki's departure.

"He already knew of our tremendously valuable training ranges, our training areas and our simulations. What we emphasized to him today was our force projection capability," he added.

With the capabilities of Fort Riley's railhead and the Manhattan Regional Airport, Fort Riley can move a loaded brigade in less than two days. "We can move them to the Port of Beaumont (Texas) in 48 hours," said Metz.

In addition to Shinseki's words of appreciation for America's soldiers, Shinseki focused on troop movement

See Warfighter Page 2

## Red Cross assists soldiers

By **Steven Cooke**  
*19th PAD*

A concern many soldiers have while they are deployed is "What if there's an emergency while I'm gone?" Yes there is the Family Readiness Group, and the Chain of Concern plays a vital role in helping families, but many soldiers want to know if their loved ones are in crisis. Making sure soldiers are informed in a time of need is the American Red Cross.

"Our mission out here is to process and receive all Red Cross messages to soldiers of Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade Combat Team and other slice elements attached to 1st BCT," said SFC Stephen Robateau, noncommissioned officer in charge of Red Cross liaison to the 1st BCT's rotation to the National Training Center.

Robateau explained how the process works.

The American Armed Forces Emergency Center contacts the Red Cross liaison office where the message is then relayed to the soldier's chain of command.

Once the soldier has received the message, the liaison informs the American Armed Forces Emergency Center. This must be done within a 24 hour time period.

Once the chain of command has been notified, it is their decision to release the soldier or not.

"Once we notify the emergency center that the soldier has received the message, the case is considered closed," explained Robateau. "Closed doesn't mean the soldier is going home. That is up to the chain of command."

If the chain of command decides that it is best for the soldier to go home, then, Robateau and his staff do everything they can to get the soldier on the next flight home.

"Once we have been notified that a soldier is going home we contact G-3 to generate a leave form for the soldier and make light arrangements with Carlson Wagonlit Travel Center," he explained. "Soldiers usually get on the next flight that day or the first flight the next morning for their home station."

Since coming to NTC, the liaison office has received more than 12 messages and has either redeployed or sent back 23 soldiers, stated Robateau.

"We've received quite a few messages," said SSgt. Vincent Van Cleave, Red Cross liaison. "They've ranged from deaths to child births."

CWO4 Ron Erkie, maintenance officer, Co. F, 158th Aviation Regt., cleans the windshield on his CH-47 Chinook helicopter while at the National Training Center. The unit is there supporting the 1st BCT during their rotation.



## Ch-47 support

*Aerial angels assist Devil Brigade*



Post/Heckler

A CH-47 Chinook helicopter lands at Bicycle Lake Army Air Field after a mission. The Chinook from Company F, 158th Aviation, Kansas Army National Guard, provides support for the 1st Brigade Combat Team during their rotation to the National Training Center.

## Olathe unit supports 1st BCT soldiers

By **Jeremy Heckler**  
*19th PAD*

FORT IRWIN, Calif. - They have left their lives in America's Heartland and journeyed to the training grounds in the California desert, serving as aerial angels to the Devil Brigade.

The soldiers of Company F, 158th Aviation Regiment, from New Century, Kan., and their CH-47 Chinook helicopters supply beans, bullets, food and more to the 1st Brigade Combat Team during their National Training Center rotation.

sion rear to the brigade supply areas," said CWO3 John Berezoski, pilot, Co. F, 158th Aviation Reg. "We are also on standby for casualty evacuation missions."

As the only Army aviation asset for the brigade, the unit also takes on missions it was not designed for such as reconnaissance.

The harsh environment of the California desert provided the unit with several obstacles.

"The adverse weather conditions provides realistic challenges because it can be hot one day and cold the next and it can

"When you land, the helicopter kicks up sand and it challenges the pilot and the crew because you lose complete visibility and you have to depend on the people in the back to help bring the aircraft down safely," said Berezoski.

Fort Irwin has also proven to be a test of the entire company.

"In an environment like this, you find people in a tough situation and have to do what's necessary," said Berezoski.

"Right now we have personnel shortages that requires officers to step up and do things that you normally wouldn't find us

perimeter and meeting the basic unit needs hasn't left a lot of time for that," said Cpl. Jason Piper, mechanic, Co. F, 158th Aviation Reg.

"On a drill, normally I don't have time to meet other people in the unit but here is a great time to get to know people," said Piper. "I've met officers here that I didn't know were in my unit."

The deployment is a culmination of months of drills the unit participated in.

"We had about five months notice and all of our drills prepared us to get here," said Piper.

"We had classes on night-

younger soldiers. Many of the crewmembers have experience from their times in far-flung places such as Saudi Arabia and Vietnam.

The rotation is one of many exercises that the unit conducts with Fort Riley soldiers.

"We go a lot of different places and we welcome the opportunity to train with other soldiers," said Berezoski.

The unit supported a variety of different units from special operations soldiers at Fort Carson, Colo., to reserve troops in the wilderness of Minnesota.

The experience has been

# Defense of Sector

## Communications key to battle for 1st BCT

By Jeremy Heckler  
19th PAD

FORT IRWIN, Calif. - The Devil Brigade drew a line in the desert sand against the Krasnovians in the first challenge of the Mojavia campaign.

Members of 1st Brigade, 1st Infantry Division performed a defense in sector against the National Training Center Opposition Force.

"We performed a Motorized Rifle Regiment attack against the blue force throughout the night," said Col. Mike Davis, 11th Armored Cavalry Regiment and Opposition Force commander.

Armor units from the 2nd Battalion, 34th Armor provided the first punch for the task force.

"We started with a guard force mission, serving as the forward eyes of the battalion where we would have been allowed to come in contact with the enemy and allow any advancing forces to follow the brigade to set up their

defense," said 2nd Lt. Timothy Carlburg, platoon leader, 1st Platoon, Company C, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor.

Carlburg said his platoon came into contact with the enemy as they covered the enemy's approach route to the target.

"We were pulled to defend the first swarm of attackers and roadblock them before the main body came through," said Sgt. Jason Mullen, tank commander, 1st Platoon, Co. C, 2nd Bn., 34th Armor. He said that before the battle was over, vehicles from his force mixed with Company B in an attempt to hold the enemy at bay.

As the guard force, 1st platoon did not have the benefit of dug in positions and had to find cover where they could.

"I'm from the desert and I know that there aren't many places for a 70-ton tank to hide so you have to make do," said Mullen.

Mullen said communication was the key for his unit as he and his wingman talked a lot during

the battle about the situation enveloping around them.

With observer control watching the battle, the brigade learned what it did well and what it needed to improve on.

"Typically when we fight with units from Fort Riley the units are well trained with a high level of expertise and an experienced staff," said Davis. He said the OPFOR treats them differently than an inexperienced unit.

"With a less experienced unit it is easy to exploit their weaknesses over and over again," said Davis.

For the members of 1st platoon, many of the crews have to gel together in the heat of battle.

"I had a whole new crew after BNCOC (Basic Noncommissioned Officers Course). My old crew had cohesion. Throw in a new gunner and a driver straight out of basic and there isn't a lot you can do when you're thrown into it," said Mullen. "By the time the rotation is over we should have more unity."

"By the end of the rotation I

want the platoon to be more cohesive and be on the upward curve of success," said Carlburg. "As long as we learn from our mistakes and not repeat them, we can do that."

With the battle over, the crews looked forward to their next challenge as they changed to the role of attacker for the next battle.

"When you're on offense, it is more challenging because with the defense all you worry about is moving back or to an alternate position but on offense you need to keep your gunner and driver straight while you read your map and listen to the radio for the grids you need to move to next," said Mullen.

On the other side of the field, the Krasnovians wait to provide the Devil Brigade with their next fight.

"Our role is to help the brigade combat team become well-trained and give them a good fight and challenge them in every battle," said Davis.

## Help continued from page 1

tants."

Except for himself, the staff is made up of Army retention non-commissioned officers.

"We work six or 12-hour shifts," said Van Cleave.

The job comes with some other challenges, as well.

"It's a challenge to contact [1st BCT's] Tactical Operation Center when they are being attacked in one of their mock battles," Van Cleave said.

Communication between the liaison office and the TOC is done solely by phone and it is hard to get through during one of their missions.

But still the job is very rewarding.

"It's really nice to tell someone 'your baby has been born,'" said Van Cleave.

"We feel like we're doing something really important because we're dealing with people's lives."

"This has been a very interesting learning experience for me," said Robateau, 1st BCT's personnel sergeant back at Fort Riley. "Our mission out here is to take care of soldiers and to make sure they receive their messages in a timely manner, which is rewarding."

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## Warfighter continued from page 1

during his speech to Manhattan, Junction City and Fort Riley representatives.

"Readiness is about today's responsibilities and today's missions. Transformation is about tomorrow's readiness for the missions we can't even envision today," he said. "The kinds of transformations we look for have some characteristics that are important."

"The Army has to be more responsive than the Army is even today. It has to be more deployable than it is today. Our light forces can go with lightning speed to lots of places, but if it's a long, protracted fight, we have to get the heavy forces in there. The heavy forces take a while to deploy and we've got to do something about that," he added.

Shinseki's vision of transformation includes three vectors, the Objective Force, the Legacy Force and the Interim Force. The Objective Force is the Army's ultimate goal, with the first brigade scheduled to stand up in 2010. The Legacy Force is today's Army and the Interim Force will begin standing up this year to "fill the gap."

"The luxury of having the time over the next eight years to get that future objective force right lies on the shoulders of the legacy force, the forces we know today," said Shinseki.

"If you fail to change, you may become irrelevant. This nation cannot afford an Army that's not fully relevant, and that's why transformation is important," he said.

The first Interim Brigade Combat Team will stand up at Fort Lewis, Wash., this year. Shinseki

explained that Fort Riley was not chosen as a site for an IBCT because its inventory of mechanized heavy equipment is needed for the future Objective Force.

"The brigades of Riley are important to our inventory as heavy brigades, and we're going to keep them that way until they're ready to transform," he said.

"If you take an Interim Brigade Combat Team and compare it to our heavy brigades and you ask me which is a better warfighter, I

will tell you it's the heavy brigade. It's the force that will take on anyone else's best," he said.

Metz takes pride in Fort Riley's mechanized warfighting capabilities. "Everyday we prepare two brigade combat teams and an engineer group to go to war," he said.

"Once one of those units leaves Fort Riley, I'm absolutely confident that we will bring one of the reserve component brigades here and will continue with all of the

facilities we have getting them ready. Therefore we are America's Warfighting Center."

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Briefs continued

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Musical set

“Bow the Knee” a dramatic musical for Easter by Chris Machen and Kimberly R. Messer will be performed by members of the Junction City Church of the Nazarene at 7 p.m. today and tomorrow at the Junction City High School Auditorium. Contact the church office at 785-762-4402 for tickets or for further information.

NAF job fairs set

The NAF personnel division will sponsor job fairs at Riley’s Conference Center on the following dates: Aug. 21, April 17, Sept. 8, May 15, Oct. 16, June 26, Nov. 13, July 24, Dec. 11 Applications will be accepted from 9 - 9:45 a.m., for immediate vacancies in Morale, Welfare and Recreation activities. Interviews will begin at 10:15 a.m. with job offers made as selections are made. Contact the Fort Riley CPAC NAF office at (785) 239-2325 for additional information.

Asian Pacific Month Program

The Installation Equal Opportunity Office will sponsor Fort Riley’s celebration of Asian Pacific Heritage Month on May 8, at Riley’s Conference Center from 1:30 a.m. - 1 p.m. The theme for his year’s observance is “Unity in freedom”. Please join us as we celebrate in remembrance of con-

tributions made by Asian Americans and Pacific Islanders. The program is free and open to all soldiers, their families, civilian employees, and the surrounding communities. For more information, please contact your Brigade Equal Opportunity Advisor or the Fort Riley EO Office at 239-2928.

OCSC Spring Bazaar, Car Show

One stop shopping for fun and games, shopping and much more. The Fort Riley Officers’ and Civilian’ Spouses’ Club is sponsoring its annual Spring Bazaar April 6 from 10 a.m. - 5 p.m. and April 7 from 11 a.m. - 4 p.m. at Marshall Army Air Field Hangar 817. Come out and have a great day shopping and visiting with the community. This year an added treat for all car buffs! There will also be a car show! April 6. Come out and see the Kansas Speed Way Pace Car and much more. Suggested donation for entry is one dollar for both events. Opportunity drawings held hourly. Lots of food, fun and fantastic shopping for families and singles alike. Strollers welcome, but not pets please. Open to the public. To volunteer or make inquiries about the event call Amy at 565-0228.

Easter Sunrise Service

The Fort Riley Community Easter Sunrise Service will be held at the Outdoor Chapel Sunday from 6:30-7:30 a.m. Morris Hill Chapel is the inclement weather site. Speaker for the service is Pastor Brad Dymess from the Church of the Nazarene in

Junction City. A breakfast brunch will be served after the service.

Thrift Shop News

The Fort Riley Thrift Shop is currently seeking furniture consignments and has also begun accepting spring clothing consignments. The Thrift Shop is open Tuesdays, Wednesdays, Thursdays from 9:30 a.m.-2:30 p.m. and the first Saturday of each month from 10 a.m.-1 p.m. Please call 784-3874 for more information. The Thrift Shop e-mail address is thrift@oz-online.net, for customer questions or concerns.

Spring Carnival

Fort Riley Elementary School will host its Fort Riley Elementary Spring Carnival April 20 from 4-7 p.m. There will be refreshments, games, entertainment and many other activities. For ticket information call 784-5529.

Christian Musician Needed

The Contemporary Protestant Service that meets at Normandy Chapel needs a lead guitar player for their praise and worship band. The service meets on Sundays at 11 a.m.; practices are on Wednesdays at 7 p.m. and Sundays at 10 a.m. If interested, call Chaplain Paulson at 239-3436, if there is no answer, please leave a message.

Combined Scholarships

Scholarships are now available

for spouses, graduating high school seniors and college students of any active duty, retired, or deceased military member from the greater Fort Riley community. Applicants must have a valid ID card and scholarships will only be awarded for undergraduate programs or vocational schooling. Applications may be picked up at the Junction City, St. Francis Xavier, or Manhattan High School Guidance Counselor’s office, Fort Riley Thrift Shop, The Shoppe, or The Soldier and Family Support Center or applications can be downloaded from our website www.frrileyscholar.com Scholarships will be awarded in May. Application deadline is April 5, 2002. For questions, call Dee Hayhurst at (785) 587-1933.

Officials Needed

The Fort Riley Sports Office is looking for officials for the sports of Soccer and Volleyball. Anyone interested in officiating either of these sports should contact Barry Sunstrom at 239-3945.

Club Beyond

Club Beyond and Club Beyond JV are designed for high school and middle school youth, respectively. These meetings include a Christian devotional and the three “F’s” of youth ministry: food, fun and friends. Club Beyond meets Sunday nights and CBJV meets Friday nights. Both clubs meet from 7 to 9 p.m. in the basement of St. Mary’s Chapel on Main Post. The mission of Club Beyond and CBJV is to develop meaning-

ful relationships with military dependent youth, to lead youth into relationships with Christians and with Christ, to help youth grow in Christian faith and to involve youth in Christian service. High School and Middle School students are invited to join in cleaning up the wetland wildlife habitat in Junction City, April 27, for its dedication. For more information, contact Don Ericson, Club Beyond Director, at 238-4436 or dericson@nqks.com. You can check out Club Beyond on the web at www.nqks.com/clubbeyond.

Child Safety

Child car seat inspections are available through Irwin Army Community Hospital’s (IACH) Community Health Nursing. Assistance with correct placement and positioning of your child’s car seat and information are part of the inspection. Active duty uniform service members, their families, retired military, and DoD civilians are eligible for this service. There is no fee. Car Seat Inspection appointments are available Tuesday and Thursday 9 a.m.- 12 p.m. Inspections will take place in the IACH parking area. To schedule a car seat inspection please call Community Health Nursing, at 239-7323.

Tobacco Cessation

New classes are forming to kick that tobacco habit. Irwin Army Community Hospital offers a four-week tobacco cessa-

tion program, which meets Wednesdays from 5-6 p.m. or Thursday from 3:30-4:30 p.m. For those concerned about gaining weight after kicking the tobacco habit, a dietician teaches participants healthy ways to avoid weight gain. Active duty uniform service members, their families, retired military, and DoD civilians may participate in the tobacco cessation program. For more information contact Community Health Nursing at 239-7323

Cancer Support

The Fort Riley Cancer Support Group meeting is set for April 3, at 6 p.m. at Irwin Army Community Hospital, first floor, in the patient waiting area of the Combined Surgery Clinic.

Siren Alert Test

Fort Riley will conduct a Siren Alert Exercise today at 3 p.m. to test its tornado warning alert notification procedure. The siren system will emit a series of three one-minute warbling siren blasts at 3 p.m. When the blasts are sounded, personnel should tune their televisions to Fort Riley’s Cable Channel 2 for further guidance. Beginning May 1, Fort Riley will conduct monthly tests the first Wednesday of the month at 3 p.m. to assess the siren’s effectiveness of coverage. For more information, call the Fort Riley Operation Center at 239-2223.

Alerts lessen chance of network security breach

*By John Quigg*  
*ARNEWS*

WASHINGTON — In 2000, Army networks were exposed to more than 5,000 intrusion attempts — less than 70 were successful. Intrusion attempts in 2001 early tripled, but less than 100 were successful. During an undeclared “cyber war” between Chinese and U.S. hackers in the first two weeks of May, more than 50 Army Web pages were defaced by an automated attack. These defacements were successful because published fixes, identified in Information Assurance Vulnerability Alerts, were not in place on the

hacked machines. IAVA’s are the digital equivalent of a Safety of Flight Message and are reported to the Chairman of the Joint Chiefs of Staff on a monthly basis. The alerts address basic security measures in place for Army computer networks and, officials said, they are one of the most critical tasks on a commander’s plate as the Army transforms itself into a digitally-enabled force. Since January, there have been more than 5,000 intrusion attempts against the Army’s network — less than 15 of those have been successful. Officials in the Army Information Assurance Office, Chief Information Office, G-6, said they believe that the key is the IAVA process and that just

one successful intrusion is too much. The IAVA process, established in June 1998, provides the Secretary of Defense with “positive control” of vulnerability notification and a centralized reporting capability for tracking vulnerability compliance, according to officials. The Army Computer Emergency Response Team is the Army’s focal point for implementation of the IAVA process and part of the Land Information Warfare Activity at Fort Belvoir, Va. “The ACERT receives alerts issued by the DOD Computer Emergency Response Team,” explained MSgt. Larry Porter, head of the Army’s Chief Information Officer’s IAVA Compli-

ance Verification Team. “The ACERT identifies the vulnerability and the solution for major command and program executive officers, Information Assurance program managers and their system administrators and network managers.” Major military command IAPMs are responsible for ensuring that the alerts are acknowledged and that corrective actions are implemented or that extensions are granted, Porter said. Compliance reports are compiled by the Army’s IAO and provided to the Army’s CIO and senior leadership. In November 1999, the Army established the IAVA Compliance Verification Team to conduct short-notice assessments of ran-

domly selected units to verify compliance. From its establishment through February 2002, the CVT has inspected 33 organizations and more than 50,000 computers. It has discovered 1,663 instances of previously identified IAVA vulnerabilities. “These vulnerabilities were reported as corrected, but were still present on the networks,” Porter added. The Army is doing a better job by increasing accountability and responsibility. “We established an IAVA compliance database that provides a clear chain of accountability and communications,” said Ron Sturmer, a contractor with the Army’s IAO.

“It’s clear that as long as we have an Army computer network, we are going to have to protect it,” said Lt. Col. Thaddeus Dmuchowski, director of the Army’s Information Assurance Office. “Each year the number of attempted intrusions has increased, and it’s not just against military computer networks. Nationally, the Computer Emergency Response Team identified six intrusion attempts in 1988, compared to more than 52,000 attempts last year.”

Mechanics at National Training Center work supply mission for unit

*By Steven Cooke*  
*19th PAD*

Mechanics at the National Training Center wear multiple hats. “We’re mechanics doing a supply job,” said SFC Archie Smith, Maintenance Support Team Chief, Headquarters and Headquarters Detachment, 541st Maintenance Battalion. The job of the supply unit, at NTC, is to make sure Headquarters and Headquarters Company, 1st Brigade’s requests for supplies are fulfilled in a timely manner, explained Smith. Supplies requested range from food to office supplies to ammunition and wood, said Smith. “The most requested item is oil and petroleum goods,” he said. “Oil is the hardest thing to keep. As soon as we get it’s gone.”

The key explains Spec. Peter Stamey, 1st Maintenance Co., is to make sure that the right amount of the requested good is sent to the right unit. Supply mainly works out of the 2-4 yard, explained Bryan Symonds, all wheel mechanic, 1st Maintenance Co., working as a fork lift operator. “We sort the supplies here,”

said Symonds. “Then we load the supplies on flat racks to get them ready to be shipped out.” Supplies are mainly shipped by trucks but air lifts have been used at NTC, explained Capt. Dwight Bryan, commander, HHD, 541st Maint. Bn. An important part of the training process here is protecting the supplies while in route to and

from “The Box,” said Bryan. Military police constantly patrol the routes traveled by the supply trucks. Patrol cars are also placed in front of and behind the trucks for the duration of the trip. Additionally, every soldier on the trucks is armed with a weapon. Working in supply, like maintenance has its share of problems too. “Challenges are basically communication, time management

and fulfilling requests for supplies,” said Smith. “We have really long hours too, but it’s nothing we can’t handle.” One aspect that can be a little troublesome though is threats against the perimeter. “We have to stop and everything and secure the area,” he said. “It’s satisfying to get supplies to soldiers on time,” said Symonds.

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# Fort Riley Sports

March 29, 2002

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Page 9

## 924th spikes 70th Engineers 2-0

By Kevin Doheny  
Staff Writer

There are basic fundamentals to every sport.

Every sport is complicated in its own way, but at its purest form, here is a place where basic fundamentals take over.

In baseball, it might be keeping the eye on the ball or keeping the head down to field a ground ball, or in football to wrap up for the tackle or keeping eyes on the quarterback in zone defense.

These basic fundamentals are on every facet of the game. In every play or pitch, in every touch of the ball, every second of every game.

The same can be said for the sport of volleyball. Before any point can be scored, there needs to be a basic fundamental.

Tuesday night at King Field House, the 924th Military Police Company bumped, set and spiked their way past the 70th Engineer

Battalion 2-0, (25-16, 25-17).

"With the addition of our two new guys, our level of talent has gone up from previous years," said James Sickenger, 924th MP after the game. "I was able to get every in the game and let them play a little bit. That's how I like to do it."

The MPs picked up their second victory of the season. Their first win came by way of a forfeit Monday over MED-DAC.

"This is my third year playing," said Sickenger. "Already this year there has been multiple forfeits, and for some reason every year the participa-

tion has gone down. My first year there were about 12 teams, then 10, and now there is eight."

Even with the participation down, Sickenger says there is still some pretty good competition around post. He also says, some of his key players will be around for the regular season, but come time for the post-season tournament, they will be gone.

"I guess we will sort of be like the Cincinnati Reds in Major League

Baseball, we will have a great regular season, but when it comes time for the playoffs, we will have a hard time," said Sickenger jok-

ingly after the game. "There are still some tough teams around post with 4th Battalion, 1st Field Artillery and some of the other teams. There are still some challenges."

The volleyball season started Monday and will run until late April. King Field House hosts two games a night, which take place 6 and 7 p.m.

The Battalion level league plays with the United States Volleyball Association rules with a few local rules added.

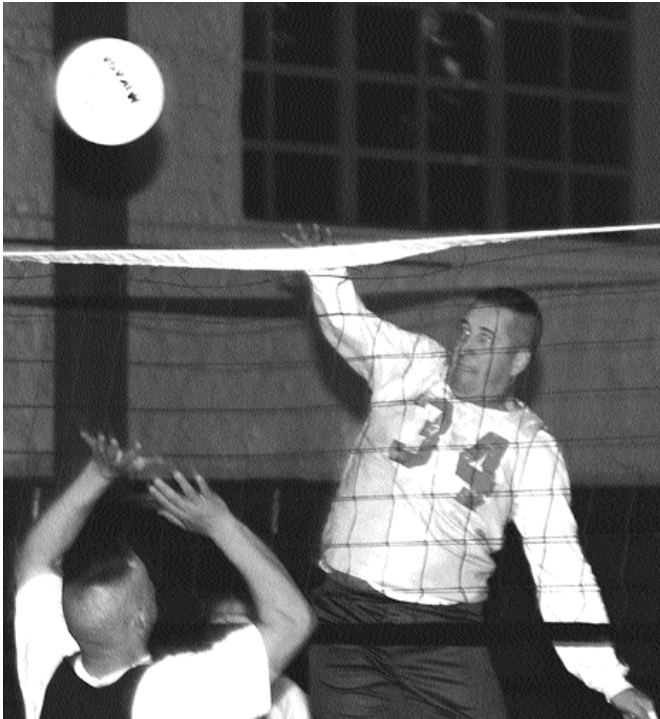
The league is also coed. Also, in order to win the match, the winning team must win two out of three games.

As the season heats up, there is sure to be plenty of volleyball action inside the friendly confines of King Field House.

As for the MPs, they look to stay on track against 1st Battalion, 34 Armor Monday, and as for the 70th Engineers, they will try to get to winning ways against 4-1 FA April 8.

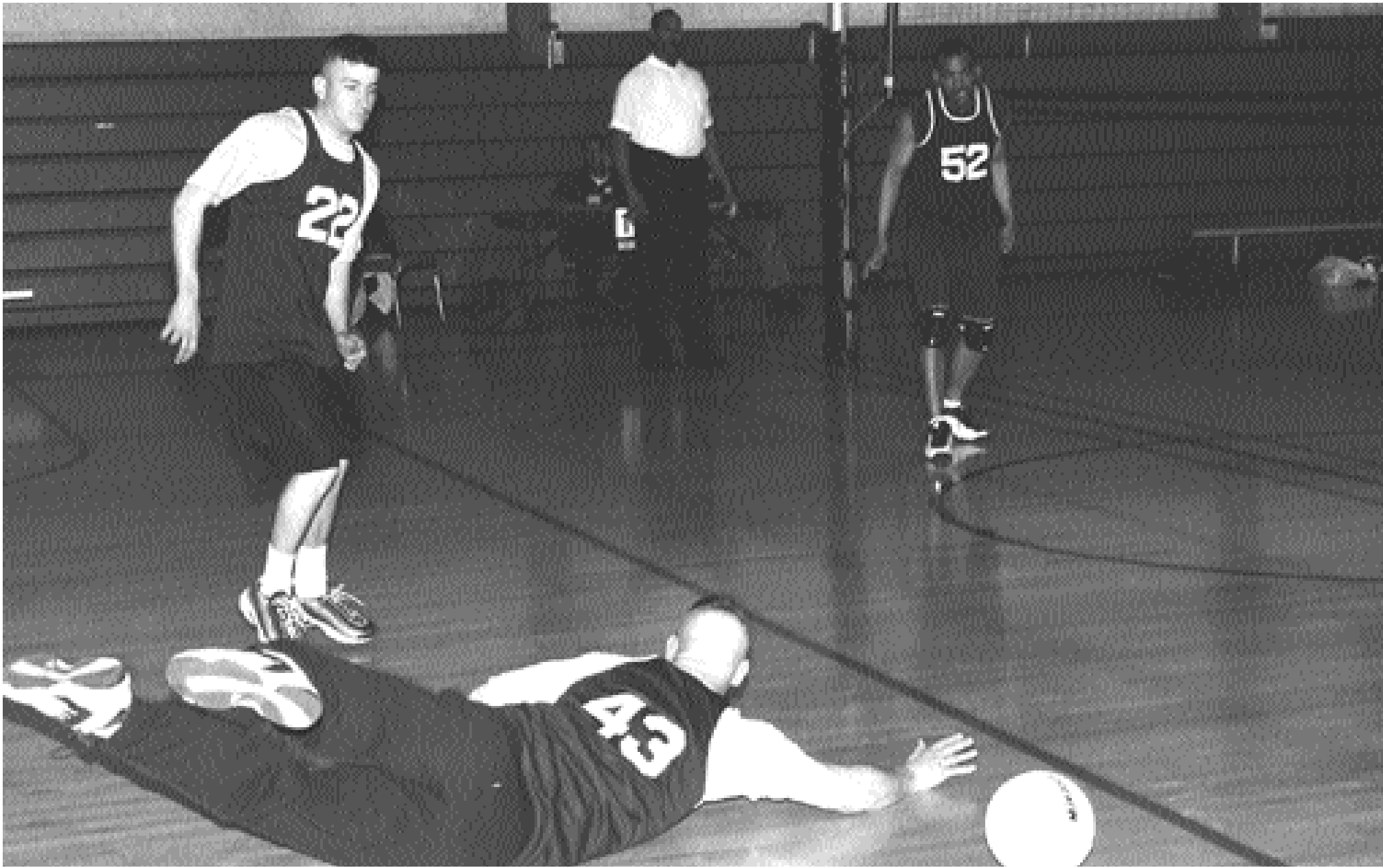
"With the addition of our two new guys, our level of talent has gone up from previous years."

—James Sickenger  
924th MP Co.



Post/Doheny

Jeff Newton spikes the ball into the 70th Engineer defense. He and his counterparts defeated the Engineers 2-0.



Post/Doheny

Travis Toman, 70th Engineer Battalion, makes a dive at the ball in the first game of the 924th Military Police's 2-0 victory Tuesday night at King Field House. The Engineers fell just short of the MPs.

## Earth Day: Several events planned April 20

By Carin Richardson  
DES

On April 20, 1970, more than 20 million Americans celebrated the first Earth Day. Over thirty years later, 300 million people worldwide are expected to celebrate Earth Day. Earth Day has become an international event demonstrating concern and mobilizing support for the environment. Earth Day is the annual call for

event called Ol' Bill's Earth Day Stampede for soldiers, their families and the surrounding communities. The Fifth Annual Ol' Bill's Earth Day Stampede will be held April 20, in conjunction with the Third Annual Outdoor Recreation Open House. The events include a 5K, 20 pound Rucksack Unit Challenge Race, a 10K Race, a 2-Mile Adults and Kids Bike Rally, and a 5-Mile Volksmarch.

All the events will begin at the Out-

son team from the same battalion or separate company. The rucksack race begins at 8 a.m., so arrive one hour early to register and pick up your 20 pound bag of sand.

The 10K Race is open to all runners, limited to a maximum of 300 runners. Awards will be presented to all first-, second-, and third-place male and female runners in the following age groups: 17 and under, 18-25, 26-35, 36-45, 46-55, and 56 and above. The 10K Race will

shirts (\$12) and commemorative mugs (\$12.50) can be ordered. After April 15, the registration fee, additional T-shirts, and commemorative mugs will be \$15 each.

The 2-Mile Adults and Kids Bike Rally is open to all ages. Prizes will be presented to the top three individuals who have the best decorated bikes. All bike decorations should support the Earth Day Theme: "Protecting Our Freedom...Preserving the Environment." This event is

Quiz. A brochure listing questions about Earth Day and environmental issues will be given to each participant at the start of the walk. The answers to the quiz will be found on signs located along the route. Participants who answer all the questions correctly and complete the 5-mile walk will receive giveaways. The 5-Mile Volksmarch will be open from 1200 - 1500.

Pre-registration (through April 15) for the 5K, 20 lb. Rucksack Unit Challenge

# Counting cricket chirps may be more accurate than TV

By Alan Hynek  
DES

“A rainbow in the morning is the sailors warning; a rainbow at night is the sailors delight.” With the approach of severe weather season, it is appropriate to review severe weather drills. It is also a fun time to review old weather lore. Old time weather lore has been around for centuries in this country, with much of its history dating back to Native Americans and old world sayings. But how much of it can be trusted? Surprisingly, many of these old tales can be backed up by scientific fact. Take the verse mentioned above for example. Rainbows are formed by clear sunlight refracting from very moist air around storm clouds or water

molecules. A rainbow appears in the part of the sky opposite the sun. Because our weather moves from west to east, a rainbow in the morning (in the west) means that the storm is approaching from the west. A rainbow in the east (evening) means that the storm has already gone east. Many tales of animal and insect weather lore also turn out to be quite true. One of my favorite weather forecasters is the common black cricket. Most of us have heard their persistent chirp, but did you know that an accurate temperature reading could be derived from this insect. All you do is count the number of chirps the cricket makes in 15 seconds, and add 37 to the number to get the correct temperature in degrees Fahrenheit (30 chirps plus 37 equals 67 degrees). It takes a lit-

tle practice but the method is amazingly accurate. One usually accurate sign of a change in weather is when cattle and horses crowd together, most often in the corner furthest from the storm. Also, dogs seem to be more active and bark more before an approaching weather front. This can be explained from the sharp drop in air pressure and increase in humidity before a storm, which could account for the restlessness of pets; smells are stronger and sound travels farther. This increase in sounds and scents could explain why many dogs seem to bark more before a storm. The dog might hear other dogs at a greater distance, or smell more things they may want to investi-

gate. The changing wind direction before a storm could also bring new sounds and smells. Frogs and toads are also more active and visible when the humidity increases with an approaching storm. There’s an old saying: “If frogs come out of their holes in large numbers, it will rain soon.” There’s also a saying: “If tree frogs call during a rain, the wet weather will stay for a while.” Some animals are said to predict the quality of a coming season by their den or nest building habits. If a crawfish builds up mounds around their holes, it’s a sign of a hot summer. If they don’t it’s a sign of a wet summer. Hornets are also said to be good predictors of the quality of a com-

ing winter. If they build their nest high, the winter is supposed to be a difficult one. Low hornets nests are supposed to indicate a mild winter. Besides animals and insects, many humans say they can feel a change of weather in their bones. These sayings too, have some scientific backing. All fluid bodies are affected by the increased humidity and decreased air pressure caused by an advancing storm, including humans. Since much of our bodies are made up of water molecules, we too are sensitive to external pressures and changes caused by the weather. This is even more so the case with conditions like arthritis or bursitis. Those who suffer from sinus problems can also feel these

changes. Swollen veins in the nasal passage cause most sinus problems, and the rate at which they expand depends partly on external air conditions. Hence, some people feel the weather change in their bones, while others feel it in their head. Old time weather lore; be it about the sky, the winds, animals or people, is a valuable part of our heritage. However there’s no substitute for an accurate weather forecast. But if you keep an eye to nature, you might increase your chances for a true weather prediction, and have a little fun in the process. The old weather lore, passed down through the generations, has a lot of charm. As strange as some may sound, many are surprisingly true.

## Army weight control regulation 600-9 under review

By Joe Burlas  
ARNEWS

WASHINGTON — While the Army is currently reviewing its rules governing the weight control program in Army Regulation 600-9, don’t expect to see any changes before fiscal year 2003. That guidance and a message on stick to the current policy were sent to senior noncommissioned officers last week by Sgt. Maj. of

the Army Jack L. Tilley in a “SMA sends” e-mail. “Don’t let your soldiers get caught up in the speculation about changes to the program,” he stated. “Rest assured that any decisions we make will be driven by what’s best for the health of our soldiers and the readiness of our Army.” Last updated in 1986, the latest review was partly prompted by a Government Accounting Office report and a Department of

Defense directive for the armed services to get more standardized programs across each. Currently, weight control and physical fitness standards are developed and implemented independently by each service. Another reason for the review, said Lt. Col. Margaret Flott, chief of the Individual Readiness Policy Division, Office of the Deputy Chief of Staff, G-1, is the Army knows more about health issues and physical fitness based upon

medical science than it did years ago. “When I joined the Army, we did physical training in combat boots and fatigues,” Flott said. “Soldiers no longer wear combat boots when doing PT because we now know that practice is not healthy. Likewise, we now wear appropriate clothing for PT. “The review of the weight control program is about using established medical science based upon the general (United States) popu-

lation — information we didn’t have 15 years ago when the current regulation was written — and testing it to see what is best for our soldiers and for the Army.” The Army is still in the information-gathering stage of the review, said Lt. Col. Linda Williams, a G-1 Health Promotion Policy staff officer. The next step will be to field test proposals and practices, she said. Following the field test, recom-

mendations for any changes will be staffed at both the Army headquarters and major military command levels — a process which could take up to a year — before any changes might be made, Williams continued. “We are reviewing our current policy to determine whether changes should be made and what they should look like,” Williams said. “Our ultimate objective is to improve the health and readiness of the force.”

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# Fort Riley Community

March 29, 2002

Proudly serving America's Warfighting Center

Page 11

# OPEN HOUSE



Post/Skidmore

## Come take a look at us now

The public-at-large is invited to step within the boundaries of America's Army, June 1 for Fort Riley's Open House. The free event will demonstrate what the Army and Fort Riley do for the nation, community and its citizens.

### Main Attractions

#### "Own the Night"

- Interactive Night Vision
- Wear night vision goggles while entering a darkened world complete with obstacles, map reading challenges and observation points

#### Operational Forces

- Land Warrior, Objective Force Warrior and Future Soldier -- soldiers dressed and equipped in futuristic gear

#### Simulated Engagement

- Enter the Close Combat Tactical Trainer and man an M1 Abrams and M2 Bradley weapons system

- Engage in simulated battle scenarios

#### Weapons Firing Course

- Fire blank ammunition at military targets
- Use the Army's laser engagement system to test firing skills

#### Tactical vehicles

- Interactive displays of military vehicles and equipment

#### Air Force Flyover

- Combat aircraft flyovers throughout the day

#### Emergency Equipment

- Police response teams
- Military working dogs
- Kansas Highway Patrol rollover
- Bomb disposal robotics
- Fire rescue

#### Kid's activities

- Carnival rides
- Pony rides
- Mini-obstacle course
- Camouflage face painting

#### Honor Guard

- Living history mid-1800s cavalry encampment
- Demonstrations of equestrian skills and saber drills

#### Tours of Historic post

- Self-guided walking tour of historic Main Post
- U.S. Cavalry Museum
- Custer House
- Ribbon cutting of the Constabulary Museum
- Outdoor historic vehicle display

#### Expo Hall featuring ...

- Soldier training and readiness
- Support links for soldiers and their families
- Diverse quality of life programs and activities
- Community partnership agencies

#### Concessions

- Variety of food and drink
- Fest Tent
- Face Painting

- Souvenirs

#### Veterans Tent

A Veterans' Tent with displays depicting WWII, Korea, Vietnam and Desert Storm will be located near the U.S. Cavalry Museum.

Parking will be available at Marshall Army Air Field, exit 301 off I-70 for those without DOD identification.

Soldiers, family members and DA employees are encouraged to park at Camp Forsyth.

Shuttle buses will continuously transport visitors to and from the parking areas and the Expo Center and to and from the Tactical Trainer Center on Custer Hill. Visitors can walk historic Main Post to the many attractions.

Log on to the Fort Riley website for updated information concerning the open house.

The address is [www.riley.army.mil](http://www.riley.army.mil).

## TRICARE

### Prime covers travel expenses

Active duty service members and their families enrolled in TRICARE Prime are now eligible for cost reimbursement. This benefit applies when your Primary Care Manager (PCM) refers you to a medical specialist who is located 100 miles from your PCM. This travel benefit is a provision of the National Defense Authorization Act (NDAA) of 2001.

TriWest Healthcare Alliance, of Phoenix, Ariz., stated in a December 2001 press release that the "Prime Travel benefit allows reimbursement for reasonable travel expenses incurred by traveling more than 100 miles, one way, from your PCM's office for authorized specialty care." TriWest Healthcare Alliance is contracted by the DoD to provide managed care of TRICARE in the TRICARE Central Region.

When a Prime beneficiary's PCM refers the patient to a specialty provider who's office is in a distant location, TriWest will send a notification letter to the patient explaining the guidelines and how to apply for travel reimbursement.

As an example, here are two specialty care referrals, which meet the guidelines:

- \* There isn't a Military Treatment Facility (MTF), or network/non-network provider available within 100 miles of the PCM's office who is a specialist in the required medical field.

- \* If your PCM says you need to see a medical specialist in less than 28 days and an appointment with the required medical specialist isn't available within this timeframe.

When it comes to applying for travel reimbursement, TRICARE Prime beneficiaries are required to bring their original receipts to Resource Management Division, located on the second floor of Irwin Army Community Hospital and fill out a travel reimbursement form. "We cannot help them if they don't keep their receipts. They have to help us," said Janice Mailen, Chief of the Resource Management Division.

To find out more information concerning the TRICARE Prime travel benefit, contact Stacy Cribb, Budget Analyst, Irwin Army Community Hospital's (IACH) Resource Management Division at 239-7116. The web site for TriWest Healthcare Alliance has more information on other travel reimbursement guidelines. Their web site address is [www.triwest.com](http://www.triwest.com).

## RV Lot gate Automated

Beginning Saturday, the new automated gate at the Recreational Vehicle Storage Lot in Camp Forsyth will be in operation. Soldiers who are currently assigned spaces in the lot may report to the Self Help Store on that date to receive a card key. When held in front of the black "sensor" box at the entrance of the lot, the card will activate the gate to unlock and slide open.

After a vehicle has passed over and cleared the magnetic sensors in the pavement, the gate will automatically close. The card key system will allow patrons to have 24-hour access to their RV's. It will also record the card number, date and time each time it is used. If a card is lost or stolen, a charge of \$46 will be assessed to deactivate the missing card and to prepare a replacement.

Users of the lot are encouraged to pick up their new card key on or after Saturday during the Self Help Store's business hours. The Self-Help Store hours of operation tomorrow and Sunday are 9 a.m.- 5 p.m.

The Self Help Store hours

## USD 475 signs agreement with Army Transitioning students' frustration eased with program

By Kevin Doheny

Staff Writer

Moving is a way of life in the military. These moves affect the oldier, their careers and the lives of their families.

Kids feel the frustration of moving when they try to transition from one school district to mother. To help in the transition process at various schools, a Memorandum of Agreement was signed March 22 at Fort Riley with the support of senior Department of the Army leaders.

In 1997, an Army education team, partnered with the Military Child Education Coalition, a nonprofit organization, began collecting evidence of transitioning Army students. This material was used to help senior leaders better understand why there were problems when students transferred from one district to another. With

Study. Results were released July 5, 2001. These results led school officials to implement a Memorandum of Agreement that set principles for assisting transitioning high school students.

Patricia Shinseki, along with her husband, Army Chief of Staff, Gen. Eric Shinseki, visited Fort Riley today and showed their support of an MOA signed for Unified School District 475.

"We are very excited about this commitment," said Dr. Mary Devin, superintendent of USD 475, which includes Junction City and Fort Riley. "We are very committed here to helping our military students and their families so they can transition as smoothly as possible. We are very pleased to be continuing on the work, which has already begun."

"This signing shows the commitment they have already made, and continue to make, for military youth as they transition from

the research that supported the cause of "turbulence" in the transition process for students. The research showed military students move three times as often as other students. There are variations in school calendars and class schedules along with inconsistency in records being transferred.

"It's a commitment from the school district among other school districts to do reciprocal types of things," said Riggs.

"It's only as good as the school district makes it. The military can only benefit."

Before the MOA was signed, the general's wife toured the Soldier and Family Support Center and discussed how the center helps Army families with deployments, every day Army life and education.

With the signing of the MOA, USD 475 joins an elite group of school districts taking care of



# Rippelmeyer finds success as leader for Army



1st Sgt. Dawn Rippelmeyer  
By Karen E. Hinkle  
K-State Intern

Leadership is a familiar role to

1st Sgt. Dawn Rippelmeyer of the 977th Military Police Company, which is why she found a home in the Army.

As a high school athlete, Rippelmeyer always found herself involved in leadership roles. She lettered all four years in cross country, basketball and softball, and frequently found herself acting as a team leader. She was also involved in ROTC.

Upon graduation, Rippelmeyer decided she wanted to find another environment that would offer her similar leadership opportunities. Her choice was the Army.

"I've always been a very physical person," she said. "I knew that (the Army) would be an outlet."

She enlisted in 1987, originally expecting only to stay in for three years. When it came time for her to reenlist or leave the service,

Rippelmeyer decided to give the Army another three years. She has continued to serve in the military ever since and has found that her career in the Army has paralleled her success as a leader in high school, success that she attributes to hard work.

"If you're willing to work hard and do your job well, to the best of your abilities, you will be successful," she said.

Success is something that seems to come naturally to Rippelmeyer. Though she's only been in the Army 15 years, she's already been promoted to a company first sergeant. CSM Carl Hemler of the 924th Military Police Battalion attributes that

success to her professionalism and her great track record.

"She's got 15 years of exemplary performance," he said.

During those 15 years Rippelmeyer has had a variety of positions within the Army, including three years as a drill sergeant. Rippelmeyer also worked at West Point as a mentor to future officers, which enabled her to

help young officers understand the importance of their relationship with noncommissioned officers.

However, Rippelmeyer said her current job as a military police officer is the most challenging she's had since she's been in the Army. Her current responsibilities include the care and training

of all the soldiers in the 977th MP Company, including day-to-day tasks and working with the commander. She also oversees the NCOs within the Company.

In short, Rippelmeyer is responsible for everything her soldiers do or don't do, Hemler said.

"She is a strong NCO with quality leadership traits," said Lt. Col. Pamela Martis, battalion commander, 924th MP Bn. "She has handled many deployments, with (Operation) Bright Star being her most notable."

Rippelmeyer said one particularly challenging aspect of her job is that she often finds herself dealing with new situations and problems that require different solutions.

If she wonders what road to take, she knows that someone has been in that situation before, and she's not afraid to ask for advice.

"Seek that counsel," she said. "You don't have to handle it all by yourself."

Rippelmeyer also said she believes that soldiers should treat people like they want to be treated themselves. However, she doesn't let that belief keep her from doing her job as an MP.

"The standards still have to be tough," she said. "That's what I (would) expect."

While Rippelmeyer wants to continue to improve her skills as a 1st Sgt., she isn't certain that her future is to remain in the military. Part of her wants to see if she can become a sergeant major, but another part of her desires to return to a civilian life.

As a civilian, Rippelmeyer said she would like to work with animals.

"I see what animals can do with people," she said. "By helping them, I can also help people."

## Commentary

Information, Ticketing & Registration is located in the Leisure Travel Center, Bldg. 6918 (across from the PX) and has current information and tickets to surrounding area attractions, dinner heater, concerts, stage productions and movie theatres.

Before making vacation plans, check out the maps and travel brochures from across the U.S. TR also assists in group travel plans.

Active/retired military, Department of Army Civilians and family members are authorized to use the ITR Office for leisure travel services, Call 239-5614/4415 for further information.

Tickets are available for purchase with cash, check, MC, VISA and AE. Prices are subject to change.

**Hours of Operation: Monday-Friday, 9 a.m.-6 p.m. closed on Sundays and holidays.**

**Oldies 98.5's Rock 'N Roll Revival IV**—Certainly the music has some of the most memorable from the 50/60s era - and some of the most popular stars of the era are coming to Salina. Bobby Vee,

The Contours, Jewel Akens', Don & Juan & Kathy Young brings Rock N Roll to the Bicentennial Center April 13.

Tickets are now available through ITR.

**Discount Movie Tickets** are available for Carmike Theater in Manhattan and Westside Twin in Junction City at discounts. Enjoy an evening show at matinee ticket price.

Buy several as they can be used within a year of purchase.

**Breckenridge Ski Resort**—With over 171 registered buildings, Breckenridge boasts one of Colorado's largest historical districts.

Breckenridge is consistently rated as one of the most exciting mountain resorts in the country. Visitors can choose from outstanding fine cuisine restaurants, cozy bistros, and outrageous dance clubs.

With over 200 shops, art galleries, and restaurants, Breckenridge offers something for everyone. ITR will assist you with "Ski Colorado" packaging for Winter Park, Keystone/Breckenridge, Sol

Vista Golf & Ski Ranch and Vail. Discounted military lift tickets are now available.

**Armed Forces Vacation Club**—Resort condominium rentals for only \$234 per week throughout the U.S. and overseas locations. How about Florida or California?

Discount attraction tickets are also available for both destinations. Call ITR for information.

**ITR Cruises**—Thirty six military ticket and tour office managers learned about cruising as a vacation option.

Cruise Line International Association conducted the training, CLIA represents all companies that form the world-wide cruise industry.

The 40 hours of training included lectures, video presentations, class discussions and tests. Seventeen Army managers earned their CLIA certification as accredited cruise counselors, which will allow them to sell cruises to members of their military communities from their Information, Ticketing and Reservation offices.

Authorized patrons can start

taking advantage of special military discounts and bargain cruises.

Stop by ITR, Bldg. 6918 (across from PX) for brochures and information concerning Carnival Cruise Line, Holland America, Royal Caribbean and Disney Cruises.

Or make an appointment with Teresa at 239-5614/4415 and plan your next get-a-way.

**Sol Vista Golf and Ski Ranch**—Set high in the Colorado Rockies, Sol Vista Golf and Ski Ranch evokes the kind of Western charm and small-town friendliness that our guests truly cherish. Sol Vista has Colorado's second-largest night skiing acreage.

There's more to winter at Sol Vista than just skiing! They have a wide array of fun-filled activities for everyone to enjoy — and you can find it all at the base area.

So, if the kids want to go snow biking and the adults want to take a snowshoe tour, it's all right here.

Stop by ITR for brochures, ski packaging and military discounted lift tickets.

### Prenatal classes offered at IACH

The Women Infant Care Center of Irwin Army Community Hospital is offering a new series of prenatal classes, "The Gift of Motherhood" on April 20, from 9:30 a.m. to 1:30 p.m., in the third floor classroom.

Expectant mothers, between their 12th and 40th week of pregnancy are eligible to attend.

The prenatal classes are free and each participant will receive a personal copy of the book, "The Gift of Motherhood" to take home.

Expectant mothers are asked to bring their spouse, significant other or birth coach. The class is limited to 20 participants.

For more information, call Capt. Diana Seuss at 239-7434. To register for "The Gift of Motherhood" prenatal classes, call the Fort Riley TRICARE Service Center at 784-1200 or toll free is 1-888-874-9378.

### Pregnancy Physical Training program

Pregnancy Physical Training is held every Monday, Wednesday and Friday, on the basketball court at Long Fitness Center, from 6:30 - 7:30 a.m.

The program is designed to serve the special needs of the pregnant soldier by providing appropriate physical training and a health education program. Pregnancy PT supports the Fort Riley units by offering consistent health guidance for pregnant soldiers.

Every Tuesday, is an hour-long education program, which is held in the Education Bay, fourth floor of Irwin Army Community Hospital from 6:30 - 7:30 a.m. Short presentations by health care staff members cover a variety of topics, such as infant car seats; skincare during pregnancy, and the common discomforts of pregnancy.

Spouses, or men and women who are the support persons for the pregnant soldier are welcome to attend. Participation in the Pregnancy PT program is encouraged although participation isn't mandatory. For more information, call Sgt. Carrie M. Jensen, 2nd Platoon, 568th Engineer Company at 239-5827 or leave a message at (785) 762-7012.

Classified

# Two local troops in Soldier Show

By Harriet Rice  
CFSC PAO

Fort Belvoir, Va.— Victor Hurtado had huge plans for this year’s J.S. Army Soldier Show. Then he heard the soldiers audition here March 23.

“Is there such a word a ‘huge-r’?” he asked after the last of the finalists had taken the stage at the Wallace Theater. “I am overwhelmed. Now I have much bigger plans for the show than I did originally,” said Hurtado, the how’s artistic director.

“It’s fabulous. You definitely have a big show here. What I like to see is healthy, talented, sharp soldiers who can represent our Army well. That’s what I’ve seen here, and it’s really impressive,” said Maj. Mark Shull, who came to watch the auditions along with nearly 100 supporters, friends, family, and judges.

The panel of 20 judges had their work cut out for them. They scored the performers on criteria such as vocal ability, stage presence, and musical interpretation.

“The first thing I look for is talent. Can they sing? How is their voice? Is it strong? Are they confident in what they’re singing? Do they know the notes? Are they comfortable with their voice? Can they use it as an instrument?” said Andrea Williams, a special projects coordinator for the Washington D.C. chapter of the National Academy of the Recording Arts and Sciences, GRAMMY(r), and

one of nine entertainment industry judges

She added, “The second thing I look for is stage presence.

And then I think there’s that special something that gives you goose bumps when you see someone, and you get this feeling, ‘Oh, they touched me.’”

Nerves were frayed as the soldiers awaited their turn onstage. Sgt. Sharon Tongol, from Camp Humphreys, Korea, described herself as “in knots. I’m tense.” She selected Faith Hill’s “There You’ll Be” from the movie “Pearl Harbor” and the Dixie Chicks “Let it Rip” to show off her versatility and because the latter “is fun and I can cut loose a little bit.”

Wearing a slinky magenta sequin cocktail dress, glitzy eye make-up and a sophisticated “do” for the romantic song, Tongol shook her hair out to switch character for the raucous Chicks’ number. Afterwards, changed into black Soldier Show sweats, Tongol relaxed and happy. “I feel a total high. Drugs can’t compare - not that I would know!” she joked.

It was an elegantly costumed, eye-catching group. Black was the fabric color of choice, sometimes teamed with light-catching silver sequins or shiny gold chiffon, at other times topped by cowboy hats or accented with sparkling jewelry.

There were some show stoppers: Sgt. Timora Green, Fort Drum, N.Y. rocked the house with “I Have Nothing”; Staff Sgt. Greg

McPhee, Fort Benning, Ga., gave a beyond-tenor rendition of Whitney Houston’s “I’ll Always Love You” in the song’s original key; 1st Lt. Angel Stone, Fort Lee, Va., delivered a sassy “Last Dance”; and Army Reservist Lt. Col. Ann Gordon turned Tina Turner, wig and all, to ask “What’s Love Got to do with it?”

Those performances culminated nine days’ of evaluation, coaching and rehearsal. From military records, choral exercises, and harmonizing to dance, staging and teamwork breaking down and setting up the stage, soldiers were put to the test.

“This year, for the first time, so they knew what they were getting themselves into, they tore down the stage in one day and then set it up again before 5 p.m.,” said Hurtado. “I was impressed by their teamwork and how they’re supporting each other.”

[On tour, the cast is also the crew, loading and unloading, setting up and dismantling nearly 20 tons of staging and equipment at each stop.]

The 23 finalists were selected from more than 40 applicants who submitted video tapes that were screened by a committee in January.

That committee consisted of Community and Family Support Center staff, senior NCOs, Army Entertainment Division artistic staff, Better Opportunities for Sin-

gle Soldiers representative, past Soldier Show performers and entertainment industry professionals.

The technicians’ “audition” consisted of learning to operate the state-of-the-art automated sound and lighting systems, then producing and running the March 23 show under the supervision of AED technical staff. There were minor glitches, but generally the four-hour production ran smoothly backstage, at the computers, and on the consoles.

On Monday, soldiers got the word about who made the final cut.

The 18 cast members and five technicians, who include Fort Riley’s Sgt. Albert Latuch and SSgt. Tobin Atkinson, immediately begin six weeks of intensive rehearsals.

They have just six weeks’ to learn music, choreography, staging, and costume changes.

The show opens at Fort Belvoir May 17 with three performance, then tours for six months throughout the United States, Europe and tentatively, the Middle East.

The U.S. Army Soldier Show, an Army Entertainment Division production, is one of more than 200 Morale, Welfare and Recreation programs the Army provides soldiers and families worldwide through the U.S. Army Community and Family Support Center.

## Laundry Services Closed

The laundry services presently provided at Fort Riley have changed. The Department of the Army has directed that all quartermaster laundries be privatized.

“I’m not going to be given funds in the future to subsidize the laundry,” said Maj. Gen. Thomas Metz, commanding general, 24th Infantry Division (Mech) and Fort Riley.

“This is a tough issue because many families pinch pennies and we may hurt them by not subsidizing the laundry, but I have to think about the future of soldiers and their families,” he said, referring to allocating the money toward other services and training on Fort Riley.

Those patrons who have personal items in the laundry (Bldg. 183) should pick their items up no later than April 15. Organizational items such as TA-50 can be picked up at Bldg. 229, the old commissary. All units, organizations and individuals requiring laundry service (TA-50, guest housing, DCA, Honor Guard, etc.) should turn in items to Bldg. 229.

Because the new operation will not accept personal clothing items, such items can be taken to the AAFES facility on post or to dry cleaners off post.

## Facility closed for repair

The Hazardous Waste Storage facility at DRMO will be closed for repairs and will not be accepting hazardous waste beginning April 1. The concrete pad at the HWSF is scheduled to be resealed at this time, the resealing insures that if a spill were to occur the material will be contained and not permeate into the soil below. The HWST is anticipated to reopen May 15.

During the construction organizations generating hazardous waste will need to follow this simple steps:

1. Bring 1348-1A paperwork to the DES (239-8436 or 239-2385, building 407) for processing.
  2. After processing the 1348-1A’s through DES the 1348-1A’s will be turned in to DRMO (239-0531 ext. 943, building 1950).
  3. Make appointment for turn in at the Hazardous Material Processing Center (239-2305 or 761-5858, building 1930), where Ed Cobb will take custody of the waste.
- Call John Shimp at 239-8436 or Bob Updyke 239-2385.

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